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UNCLAS BANGKOK 003206

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP, EAP/BCLTV, NEA

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SUBJECT: THAILAND ISSUES STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR NEW IRAQI GOVERNMENT

REF: BANGKOK 3107

1. (SBU) The MFA has informed Post that the RTG has issued a public statement in support of the Iraqi transitional Government. The MFA has posted the announcement on the Ministry's website (www.mfa.go.th). In addition, MFA North America Division provided post with a copy of a congratulatory Diplomatic Note the MFA sent to the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. A copy of the public statement and diplomatic note follow.

2. (U) BEGIN TEXT OF PUBLIC STATEMENT:

Thailand welcomes the formation of the new democratically elected Iraqi government. This political milestone comes as a result of perseverance and the collective strength of the Iraqi people, who deserve full praise and admiration for their efforts, despite the numerous difficulties and obstacles in their way.

Thailand recognizes that the new Iraqi government will have the important task of rebuilding an environment of peace and stability in Iraq, as well as to provide for the well being and prosperity of the people of Iraq. The successful management of this period of political transition will be crucial for the future political stability of the country, as well as the region.

Thailand reaffirms its intention to work with the United Nations and the international community in rendering support to the government of Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country. To this end, Thailand looks forward to strengthening existing cooperation and relations between the two countries
END PUBLIC STATEMENT

3. (SBU) BEGIN TEXT OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE:

Excellency,
I have the honor and great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency my sincere congratulations and best wishes upon Your Excellency's resumption of duty as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

I am confident that, with Your Excellency at the helm of Iraq's foreign policy, the relations between Iraq and Thailand will continue to be further strengthened for the mutual benefit and prosperity of our two countries and peoples.

I have further the honor to reaffirm the commitment of Thailand to support the international community in providing humanitarian assistance to Iraq, and encourage the new Iraqi government in working for progress towards the reconstruction of the country.

Accept Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Kantathi Suphamongkhon
Minister of Foreign Affairs
END DIPLOMATIC NOTE
BOYCE